



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ and Shreveport-Bossier Officials seeking input on ozone reductions strategies

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the mayors of the cities of Shreveport and Bossier City are seeking input from the public on air quality strategies to reduce ozone formation and maintain attainment with the national standards.

DEQ has created a statewide survey that allows the public to make suggestions on how improve air quality in their own geographic are. The link to the survey is <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cleanairforlouisiana>.

Data collected from the survey will be shared with the regional air quality workgroup that is being lead by representatives of the two cities as well as other regional planning staff.

The Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) comprised of Caddo, Bossier and Desoto Parishes, currently meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the pollutant ozone. However, the area is close to becoming nonattainment and has joined the Environmental Protection Agency's Advance Program to take measures to reduce ozone pollution.

The Shreveport-Bossier area is affected by a number of emissions sources that include rail and airport equipment, as well as industrial sources, but there are also areas that residents and citizens can exert some control. Nonroad emissions, which comprise 25 percent of the nitrogen oxide emissions and 23 percent of the volatile organic compound emissions in the area, are also emitted by lawn and garden equipment, four wheelers, boats and other off road vehicles. On road emissions sources represent 46% of nitrogen oxide emissions and 29 percent of volatile organic compound emissions come from vehicles driven on highways, and can be more controlled when everyone combines errands, carpools and does not idle. Nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react in the presence of sunlight to form ozone, so by reducing the amounts of these emissions, we can impact how much ozone might be produced.

DEQ is asking residents and the public in the affected parishes to make their suggestions, via the survey, on how to help the Shreveport-Bossier area reduce ozone forming emissions.

For more information on the Ozone Advance Program and air quality, go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/ozoneadvance or at the EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/ozoneadvance>.